

Message Text

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FOR POLADS

REF: BONN 14111 AND 14205

1. SUMMARY: FDP CHAIRMAN AND FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER IN NEW YORK INTERVIEW IS QUOTED AS STATING COOPERATION SPD AND FDP MINISTERS IN BONN COALITION IS GOOD AND CONFIDENT, AND THAT HE EXPECTS NO CHANGE AS LONG AS POLICY ENUCIATED IN GOVERNMENT DECLARATION FOLLOWED. HOWEVER, HE IS QUOTED AS WARNING SPD AGAINST MARXIST TENDENCIES IN UPCOMING NOVERMBER SPD MEETING IN MANNHEIM. SAYS SUCH DEVELOPNENT COULD UNDERMINE BASIS OF COOPERATION WITH FDP IN SOCIAL-LIBERAL GOVERNMENT COALITION IN BONN. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN APPARENTLY EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AND FDP PARTY CHAIRMAN HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER
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IN NEW YOURK , 'STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN" POLITICAL
WRITE OFFENBACH ELICITED SOME RESPONSES WHICH RE-
LATE TO THE EMERGENCE OF COALITION ECONOMIC POLICY
DIFFERENCES REPORTED REFTEL.

3. THROUGH A SERIES OF QUESTIONS REGARDING SOLIDARITY
OF FDP AND SPD VIEWS ON COALITION GOVERNMENT'S RECENT
DECISIONS ON GOVERNMENT ECONOMY MEASURES AND INCREASED
TAXATION, THEIR RESPECTIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD POSSIBLE
EXPROPRIATION IN CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF INDUSTRY AND
DIRECTION OF INVESTMENTS, AND QUESTION OF WHICH COALI-
TION PARTY HAD MOST TO GAIN IN 1976 FROM CONTINUING
FINANCIAL CRISIS, OFFENBACH ELICITED FROM GENSCHER
THE STATEMENT THAT COOPERATION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT
AND HIS COOPERATION WITH THE CHANCELLOR ARE GOOD
AND CONFIDENT AND THAT , "AS LONG AS BOTH PARTIES AD-
HERE TO ESTABLISHED POLICY CONTAINED IN GOVERNMENT
DECLARATION, NOTHING WILL CHANGE,"

4. WHEN PRESSED ON THE ISSUE OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN
IF DEMANDS FOR DIRECTION OF INVESTMENT ALONG THE
LINES ADVOCATED BY BADEB-WUERTEMBERG SPD CHAIRMAN
EPPLER WERE TO BE ACCEPTED IN THE FORTHCOMING FEDERAL
SPD CONGRESS IN MANNHEIM, GENSCHER IS QUOTED AS
SAYING: ". WHAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT IS THAT THOSE
FORCES OF THE SPD WHICH DESIRE A REVERSION TO MARXIST
PRINCIPLES DO NOT GET THEIR WAY AT THE SPD CONGRESS
AND THEREBY UNDERMINE THE BASIS FOR COOPERATION WITH A
LIBERAL PARTY . . . A MARKET ECONOMY AND PROPERTY ARE
FOR US INDISPENSABLE CONCERPTS OF A FREE SOCIETY."

5. COMMENT: WHATEVER PURPOSE GENSCHER MAY HAVE HAD
IN WARNING THE SPD AGAINST A RELAPSE INTO MARXISM IS
NOT IMMEDIATELY CLEAR. WITHOUT DISCOUNTING THE
POSSIBILITY OF JOURNALISTIC OVERKILL, GENSCHER MAY HAVE
WANTED TO PUT HIS COALITION PARTNERS ON NOTICE THAT
HE WAS AWARE OF DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE SPD AND WANTED
TO HEAD OFF ANY PROBLEMS AT THE BONN LEVEL, BOTH AS
REGARDS GENERAL ECONOMIC POLICY DIRECTION AND THE
DEGREE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FPD AND FDP.
(GENSCHER MAY HAVE HAD IN MIND SUCH DIFFERENCES AS
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THOSE BETWEEN BADEN- WUERTEMBERG SPD CHAIRMAN EPPLER
AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT (SEE STUTTGART A-98().) GENSCHER
ALSO, LIKE ANY GOOD POLITICIAN, MAY MERELY HAVE BEEN
KEEPING ALL HIS COALITION OPTIONS AT LEAST SLIGHTLY OPEN,
WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THERE WERE
IDEOLOGICAL LIMITS TO THE FDP'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
SPD. JENKINS

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